transmitted in accordance with an additional protocol [- claim 7]. As a result, the user information, after having been transmitted in the first subnetwork in which the protocol is used, can be advantageously transmitted further via at least one third subnetwork, where, for example, a radio-oriented transmission technology is used in the third subnetwork and a circuit-oriented transmission technology is used in the first subnetwork. Thus, hybrid communication networks can be set up, for example ATM systems can be combined with GSM systems.

According to a further development of [the method according to] the invention, it is provided that the second bit groups transmitted in accordance with the protocol are transmitted in accordance with the additional protocol [- claim 8]. During this process, the user information inserted in the second bit groups is advantageously inserted directly, i.e. without removing the original user information from the second bit groups, into the third protocol; this enables faster conversion to the third protocol.

According to a further advantageous embodiment of [the method according to] the invention, it is provided that the user information (NI) represents digitized voice information [- claim 9]. In this context, [a maximum of] more voice information can be transmitted in subnetworks having a limited transmission capacity.

A further development of this embodiment of [the method according to] the invention provides that the voice information is digitized into first bit groups of four bits in accordance with an adaptive differential pulse code modulation method [- claim 10]. In this context, the number of subnetwork-specific transmission units, e.g. ATM cells or Internet packets, needed for transmitting the voice information, can be advantageously reduced by at least a factor of two.

DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS;

On page 13, line 1, please replace the heading has been amended as follows:

– [Patent Claims] WHAT IS CLAIMED IS –.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claim 1-10 has been amended as follows:

1. (Amended) A method for transmitting digital user information [(NI),

- in which the user information (NI)] that is structured [into] as a plurality of first bit groups [(QRT1-QRT94)] of [in each case] 2^N bits[,] and that is transmitted

[- in which transmission] according to [the] a protocol [(AAL) takes place] having bit groups [(OCT7-OCT53)] of [in each case] 2^M bits, M being greater than N, the method comprising:

[- in which in each case] combining up to 2^{M-N} successive first bit groups [(QRT1-QRT94) are combined] to form a second bit group [(OCT7-OCT53),]; and

[- in which] transmitting the [first bit groups (QRT1-QRT94) combined to form] second bit group [groups (OCT7-OCT53) are transmitted] in accordance with the protocol [(AAL)].

2. (Amended) The method [as claimed] in claim 1, [characterized in that] wherein the second bit [groups (OCT7-OCT53) are] group is transmitted [with the aid of] using ATM cells [(AZ)].

3. (Amended) The method [as claimed] in claim 2, [characterized in that] wherein the protocol [(AAL)] is [designed in accordance with] based on International ITU-T Standard I.363.1.

4. (Amended) The method [as claimed] in claim 1, [characterized in that] wherein the second bit [groups (OCT7-OCT53) are] group is transmitted [with the aid of] using Internet packets [(IP)].

5. (Amended) The method [as claimed] in claim 1, [characterized in that] wherein the first bit groups [(QRT1-QRT94)], before being combined into the second bit [groups [(OCT7-OCT53)] group, are transmitted in accordance with a further protocol [(PROT2)].

6. (Amended) The method [as claimed] in claim 1, [characterized in that a] further comprising dividing the second bit group, [(OCT7-OCT53)] transmitted in accordance with the protocol, [(AAL) is divided] into the [original, up to 2^{M-N},] successive first bit groups [(QRT1-QRT94)].

7. (Amended) The method [as claimed] in claim 6, [characterized in that] further comprising transmitting the original first bit groups [(QRT1-QRT94), after distribution from the second bit groups (OCT7-OCT53), are transmitted] in accordance with an additional protocol [(PROT3)].

8. (Amended) The method [as claimed] in claim 1, [characterized in that] further comprising transmitting the second bit [groups, (OCT7-OT53)] group, transmitted in accordance with the protocol, [(AAL) are transmitted] in accordance with [the] an additional protocol [(PROT3)].

9. (Amended) The method [as claimed] in claim 1, [characterized in that] wherein the user information [(NI)] represents [digitized] voice information [(SP)].

10. (Amended) The method [as claimed] in claim 9, [characterized in that] further comprising digitizing the voice information [(SP) is digitized] into first bit groups [(QRT1-QRT94)] of four bits in accordance with an adaptive differential pulse code modulation method.

IN THE ABSTRACT:

[Abstract]

[Method for transmitting] Transmitting digital information structured in bit groups according to a protocol designed for another bit group structure

According to the [method according to the] invention, digital voice information [(SP)] compressed into first bit groups [(QRT1-QRT94)] of 2^N bits [is] are transmitted in ATM cells [(AZ)] or Internet packets [(IP)] by combining in each case up to 2^{M-N} first bit groups [(QRT1-QRT94)] to form a second bit group [(OCT7-OCT53)] of 2^M bits, M being greater than

N, in accordance with a protocol [(AAL)]designed for the second bit groups [(OCT7-OCT53)]. As a result, the compressed voice information [(SP) is also] may be transmitted efficiently in accordance with the protocol [(AAL)] designed for bit groups of 2^M bits.
[Figure 1]